

## **OCTOBER 2009 PRESS RELEASES**

---

For immediate release: Oct 02, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

### **Governor appeals denial of federal assistance**

---

INDIANAPOLIS (October 2, 2009) - Governor Mitch Daniels today sent a letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appealing a decision to deny federal assistance to Hoosiers in southern and central Indiana from severe storm weather Aug. 4-9.

The appeal contained an additional 210 damage reports from citizens in the time since FEMA's denial September 24.

Federal assistance was first requested on September 9 following damage that occurred in the southern and central parts of the state from a tornado, severe straight line winds, torrential rains and flooding that swept through the counties beginning Aug. 4. Up to 10 inches of rain fell over a 23-hour period in some locations, quickly leading to severe flooding. On September 24, FEMA rejected that request.

September 25-30, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security began gathering additional information about residential damage by re-opening its online reporting system and toll free number.

With the exception of Decatur County, which was added to the appeal for individual assistance, the following counties were included in the original request and appeal.

Individual assistance was requested for Brown, Clark, Floyd, Franklin, Jackson, Jennings, Marion, Ripley and Rush counties. Decatur County has been added to the appeal. Individual assistance can include grants for housing, possessions, vehicles, counseling, unemployment and U.S. Small Business Administration loans.

Public assistance was requested for Brown, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Owen, Parke, Ripley and Switzerland counties. Public assistance means state government and local governments and certain non-profit organizations in these counties would be eligible to apply for federal assistance to pay 75 percent of the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and electrical cooperatives.

###

For immediate release: Oct 05, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer, (317) 234-6713

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **State Fire Marshal Urges Residents to “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”**

---

INDIANAPOLIS: The statistics are staggering. Each year roughly 3,000 people die as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation’s emergency rooms for burn injuries. Indiana alone had 78 people killed in home fires in 2008 and fire departments responded to over 6,300 home fires. There were 106 reports of children burned from fireworks in Indiana last year.

That’s why Indiana’s State Fire Marshal is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week 2009 – October 4-10 – to urge residents to “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.” This year’s campaign focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

“The most common types of burn injuries result from fire or flame burns, scalds and contact burns,” said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal and Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety Director. “Burns are painful and can result in serious scarring and even death. When we take extra caution in our homes to ensure that the curling iron is out of children’s reach or pot handles are turned away from the edge of the stove, such injuries are entirely preventable. Keeping our homes safe from fire and preventing devastating burn injuries is a healthy change we can make happen.”

By following simple safety rules, you can “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Have a 3-foot “kid-free” zone around the stove.
- Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, oven, irons, lamps, heaters.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent a child from sticking an object in the outlet.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle, portable heater, lit fireplace or stove, or where a hot appliance might be in use.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Set your hot water temperature no higher than 120 degrees.
- Install anti-scald valves on shower heads and faucets.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record. For events in your area please contact your local fire department.

###

For immediate release: Oct 07, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **State Fire Marshal Urges Caution with Alternative Heating Sources**

---

INDIANAPOLIS: With temperatures starting to drop, alternative heating sources will become more commonplace, and the Indiana State Fire Marshal is urging caution. According to information gathered from the Indiana State Fire Marshal, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 613 home structure fires in Indiana in 2008. These fires accounted for nearly 10% of all home fires.

Recently a home in the Indianapolis area burned down due to the use of an oven as an alternative heating source. "You should only use heating sources intended for heating a home, all other sources could be dangerous," said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal and Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety Director. "Help for heating your home is out there, you just need to ask."

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) administers the Energy Assistance Program (EAP), and allocates federal heating assistance money to community action agencies around the state to disperse to qualified households. The federally-funded program offers low-income Hoosiers assistance with winter heating bills. Households that are not in an energy emergency are encouraged to call their local community action agency. For a complete list of community action agencies, or more information on the Energy Assistance Program, please visit:

<http://www.in.gov/ihcda/2523.htm>

The State Fire Marshal suggests following these tips for safe heating during the winter months:

- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as draperies, blankets, clothing, bedding, etc. at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory and is legal for use in your community.
- Turn off space heaters whenever the room they are in is unoccupied or under circumstances when manufacturer's instructions say they should be turned off. Portable space heaters are so easy to knock over in the dark that they should be turned off when you go to bed.

- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Use the proper grade of fuel for your liquid-fueled space heater, and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use. Refuel only in a well-ventilated area and when the equipment is cool.
- Use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove to avoid the build-up of creosote, an oily deposit that easily catches fire and accounts for most chimney fires and the largest share of home heating fires. Use only paper or kindling wood, not a flammable liquid, to start the fire. Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from your home.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside, that the venting is kept clear and unobstructed, and that the exit point is properly sealed around the vent. These steps are to make sure deadly carbon monoxide does not build up in the home.
- Be sure to inspect all heating equipment annually, and clean as necessary.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.

Greeson urges Hoosiers to test smoke alarms monthly and install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home — when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month and change batteries twice each year.

For more information on alternative heating safety, visit [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs)

###

For immediate release: Oct 08, 2009  
 Posted by: [DHS]  
 Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer  
 Phone: (317) 234-6713  
 Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **Hoosiers Should Use Caution While Traveling in Flooded Areas**

---

INDIANAPOLIS – With expected heavy rainfall and the possibility of flooding, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), Indiana State Police (ISP) and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) encourage Hoosiers to practice extreme caution while traveling along area roadways with standing water.

If you are driving during a flood it is important to be cautious. Roads may be washed out, unexpected potholes could be covered in water, and your car could float away in only a foot of water. If you must drive during a flood, you are encouraged to follow these tips:

- Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded-out roadway ahead, turn around and find another route to get to your destination.
- If there is no other route, proceed to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.
- Even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, do not attempt to cross a flooded road.
- Water can conceal dips, or worse, floodwaters can damage roadways, washing away the entire road surface and a significant amount of ground.
- Remember, 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
- One foot of water will float many vehicles.*
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUV's and pick-ups.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground

###

For immediate release: Oct 09, 2009  
Posted by: [DHS]  
Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer  
Phone: (317) 234-6713  
Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **State Fire Marshal Reminds Hoosiers of Cooking Safety**

---

INDIANAPOLIS: Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Nearly all cooking equipment fires start with the ignition of food, other cooking materials (e.g., grease, cooking oil), or other items normally found or installed in a kitchen. In 2008, nearly 20 percent of fires in Indiana were cooking related. The 1,228 fires caused many injuries and at least one death.

"Often times, residents say they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal and Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Fire & Building Safety Division. "Sadly, that's all it takes to go from routine to disaster."

By following a few safety tips, you can prevent cooking related fires:

- Be alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags,

drapes and food packaging).

- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of three feet around the stove. Keep pets from underfoot so you do not trip while cooking.
- Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy. If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don’t remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire. Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave. Call the fire department and make sure to have the oven serviced before you use it again. Food cooked in a microwave can be dangerously hot. Remove the lids or other coverings from microwaved food carefully to prevent steam burns.

Greeson urges Hoosiers to test smoke alarms monthly and install a carbon monoxide alarm (in homes with gas heat) in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home – when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month and change batteries twice each year.

For more information on cooking safety, visit [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs).

###

For immediate release: Oct 13, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **BE Prepared to Care for Yourself and Your Family During a Disaster**

INDIANAPOLIS -The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) advises all Hoosiers to take responsibility for their families and communities before a disaster strikes. Emergencies, both natural and man-made, are present in the lives of today’s Hoosiers. Fires, H1N1 flu, severe weather and the resulting flooding pose a continuing threat to Hoosiers. It is not a matter of should you prepare, but how quickly can you be ready?

Hoosier citizens must join the effort of being prepared. Be prepared to care for yourself and your family during a disaster. “You cannot change an event such as severe weather, but you can change how you react to it and your level of personal capability,” said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. “During a disaster, being able to take care

of your own needs, for even a short time, will help public safety professionals devote resources to assist those who need them most.”

During or immediately following a natural or manmade disaster federal, state and local emergency management agencies will be working extremely hard to provide emergency relief, and promote public safety and wellbeing. During wide spread or severe emergencies, however, assistance from these agencies may not be immediately available due to the type of emergency or the number of persons affected.

The best way to prepare for any emergency is to Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed. Get involved.

Get a kit: Gather enough food, water, medicine and other supplies to sustain you and your household for at least three days, including your pets.

Make a plan: Know what to do for different emergencies. Share and practice a plan with your family members.

Be informed: Learn more about potential emergencies threatening the area where you live and appropriate ways to respond.

Get involved: Once you and your family are prepared for emergency situations, go out and teach someone else about being prepared.

To find out more about what to do in an emergency, visit the Indiana Department of Homeland Security website at [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs) and click on “Get Prepared.”

For breaking news and public advisories from IDHS, watch our facebook page or follow us on twitter at [www.twitter.com/IDHS](http://www.twitter.com/IDHS).

Follow [www.twitter.com/INpublicSafety](http://www.twitter.com/INpublicSafety) for emergency alerts and public safety advisories including updates about the H1N1 flu pandemic.

###

For immediate release: Oct 16, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: IDHS: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer; CUSEC: Alisa Nave

Phone: IDHS: (317) 234-6713; CUSEC: (901) 544-0542

Email: [IDHS: pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov); [CUSEC: anave@cusec.org](mailto:anave@cusec.org)

## **CUSEC and IDHS to Install GEOCACHE in New Harmony, Indiana**

---

INDIANAPOLIS – On Tuesday, October 20, 2009 the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will install a geocache in New Harmony, Indiana.



Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online.

While the exact location of the geocache installation will remain undisclosed, geocaching participants can expect to find it somewhere in the town of New Harmony.

This will be CUSEC's eighth geocache. After installations in Indiana and Alabama, each CUSEC member state will have a geocache. These caches contain earthquake safety brochures and takeaways for each visitor.

Established in 1983 with funding support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, CUSEC's primary objective is to provide dynamic support to multi-state response and recovery planning, resource acquisition, public education and awareness, promotion, mitigation, and research associated with earthquake preparedness in the Central United States.

CUSEC member states are those most vulnerable to the effects of earthquakes in the region and include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. Other Indiana CUSEC members, led by IDHS, include the Indiana Geological Survey and the Indiana Department of Transportation.

###

For immediate release: Oct 19, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **Indiana Insurance joins Indiana Department of Homeland Security in offering reward for information on Little Nashville Opry fire**

---

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Insurance<sup>TM</sup>, the insurance provider of the Little Nashville Opry, is offering a total of \$25,000 to any person(s) who provides information that leads to the conviction of those involved in setting the fire that gutted the Opry on September 19, 2009.

Previously, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) opened its Arson Hotline (800-382-4628) to encourage anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity at the Opry that evening or were aware of any information connected with the fire. The Arson Hotline remains open and an award of up to \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest is still being offered.

Indiana Insurance's reward offering now ups the total reward available to \$30,000 for information that leads to an arrest and subsequent conviction.



"Intentionally set fires are a serious crime that can put innocent citizens and rescue personnel at great risk," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "I urge citizens to report any suspicions or information regarding the Little Nashville Opry Fire so we can hold criminals accountable for their violent and costly actions."

"Our investigators continue to work closely with Homeland Security personnel and the Brown's County Sheriff's office on this case and those coordinated efforts will continue until this is solved, but we are urging anyone with information to come forward," said David L. Lancaster, President and Chief Executive Officer of Indiana Insurance. "Arson and intentional acts of destruction ultimately drive-up insurance costs, and in this case, it has derailed a long-time entertainment resource for Nashville and surrounding communities, and a source of employment as well."

All calls received by Homeland Security or the Brown County Sheriff's office (812-988-6620) will be kept confidential. The Indiana Insurance reward is also being offered in conjunction with information received on the Brown County Sheriff's tip line that result in conviction.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Indiana Department of Homeland Security's State Fire Marshal, and Brown County Sheriff's Office investigation into the September 19th blaze is ongoing.

*IDHS: leadership for a safe and secure Indiana.*

For immediate release: Oct 20, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **CUSEC & IDHS Install Geocache in New Harmony, Indiana**

---

INDIANAPOLIS – This morning, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), a member of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), participated in the installation of a geocache in New Harmony, Indiana.

This is CUSEC's eighth geocache. After an installation in Alabama, each CUSEC member state will have a geocache. These caches contain earthquake safety brochures and takeaways for each visitor.

"New Harmony is a great town and with its roots tied so closely with the geological community, it just made sense that we would locate an earthquake geocache here, not only for the purpose of educating people to the earthquake hazard in the central US, but to let them experience this wonderful community," said CUSEC Executive Director Jim Wilkinson.

“This project demonstrates CUSEC’s exemplary ability to keep pace with the rapidly evolving technological frontier we operate in,” said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. “Communications forums seem to be constantly changing and expanding, and this is an innovative way to promote earthquake preparedness and awareness.”

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online.

Established in 1983 with funding support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, CUSEC's primary objective is to provide dynamic support to multi-state response and recovery, planning, resource acquisition, public education and awareness, promotion, mitigation and research associated with earthquake preparedness in the Central United States.

CUSEC member states are those most vulnerable to the effects of earthquakes in the region and include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Indiana CUSEC members, led by IDHS, include the Indiana Geological Survey and the Indiana Department of Transportation.

*IDHS: Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana*

For immediate release: Oct 26, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **Recent Fire Serves as Reminder of Fire Safety Principles**

---

INDIANAPOLIS – In light of this weekend’s fire, where eight people fortunately escaped danger, Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson reminds all Hoosiers of the importance of basic fire prevention and safety measures.

Children playing with fire cause hundreds of deaths and injuries each year. “Children have a natural curiosity about fire,” said Greeson. “They don’t realize the danger that it presents.”

According to the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA), half of people who start reported fires by playing are 5 years old and younger. Almost half (42%) of home structure fires involving children-playing begin in the bedroom. More than 60% of all fatal victims of fires by playing are children 5 years old or younger.

The State Fire Marshal encourages following these safety tips:

- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Never use lighters or matches as a source of amusement for children; they may imitate you.
- If your child expresses curiosity about fire or has been playing with fire, calmly but firmly explain that matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Use only lighters designed with child-resistant features. Remember child-resistant does not mean child proof.
- Instruct children to tell you when they have found matches or a lighter.
- Never leave matches or lighters in a bedroom or any place where children may go without supervision.

As a reminder, make sure your smoke detectors are working. Smoke detectors save lives. They can give you and your loved ones the extra time to escape the dangers of smoke and fire. Smoke detectors should be installed on every level of a residence, including basements. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home - when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month and change batteries twice each year. (Indiana changes its clocks twice a year and this serves as a good reminder to change the battery in your smoke detector.)

Planning is also important. Regular fire drills at home are recommended to make sure that everyone knows exactly what to do when a smoke detector sounds.

***IDHS: leadership for a safe and secure Indiana.***

For immediate release: Oct 28, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **State Fire Marshal Provides Halloween Safety Tips**

---

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana State Fire Marshal wants you and your children to stay safe this Halloween. The following are safety tips about fire, haunted houses and other attractions.

“Ensuring costumes are labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant is a simple fire safety precaution that Hoosiers can do to make sure Halloween remains a safe holiday,” said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson.

Fire safety concerns are often unique at haunted houses and other venues typically visited during this time of year. To help parents and children have a safe and fun Halloween, Greeson encourages following these safety tips:

#### Haunted Houses, corn mazes and other venues

- Make sure the attraction has been inspected. If a sticker indicating inspection is not visible, ask the owner to see a copy.
- Ensure there is enough lighting around doorways, walkways, and any figures in the attraction.
- Locate all exits before entering; all exits should be clearly marked.
- Do not run! Please follow any direction the operator of the attraction gives you.

#### Costumes

- Buy only costumes, wigs and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant. If you are making your own costumes, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes into contact with heat or flame. Avoid using billowing or long trailing features.
- If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so their vision is not obstructed.
- Provide children with lightweight flashlights to carry for lighting or as part of their costume.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.
- Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire.

***IDHS: leadership for a safe and secure Indiana.***